

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	58325	Agenda Number	3.
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Meeting Date:	6/9/2016	Department:	Aviation
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Subject

Approve a resolution for the co-creation of the Joint Airport Zoning Board and Airport Zoning Board of Adjustment, with Travis County, Bastrop County, Pflugerville, Round Rock, and Manor, to provide for land use regulations for the property including and adjacent to the Austin Executive Airport; and appointing individuals to the respective boards.

Amount and Source of Funding

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Shane Harbinson, Assistant Director, Department of Aviation, (512) 530-6652
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	Reviewed by the Airport Advisory Commission on May 10, 2016.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The Austin Executive Airport (AEA) has been a reliever airport to Austin Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) for over four years, growing to support over 115 based aircraft on the field, and now faces issues related to the annual growth of transient traffic. The AEA is located in eastern Travis County, adjacent to the Texas 130 Toll Road/Cameron Road intersection, an area that is rapidly developing, creating potential height hazards for the AEA.

Chapter 241 of the Texas Local Government Code (LGC 241) allows for political subdivisions to join in the creation of a Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB) and Airport Zoning Board of Adjustment (AZBA) with the power to adopt, administer, and enforce airport hazard area zoning regulations, airport compatible land use zoning regulations, and to hear zoning appeals or variations, respectively. Neither board will have jurisdiction over matters at ABIA. The JAZB must consist of two members appointed by each political subdivision. The political subdivisions that will be represented on JAZB include the counties of Travis and Bastrop, and the cities of Pflugerville, Round Rock, and Manor. Each jurisdiction must also appoint one member to the Airport Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The JAZB will convene after each political subdivision has adopted a resolution or ordinance for the creation of the JAZB and AZBA, and appointed their respective members, with an objective of adopting and providing airport hazard area zoning regulations pursuant to LGC 241. Following the adoption of the zoning regulations by JAZB, they will be provided to each jurisdiction for review and adoption into local ordinances. It is anticipated that a future recommendation for council action will be required to adopt an ordinance amending City Code relating to airport hazards, regulating the height of objects and structures in the vicinity of the AEA.

The effort to form a JAZB for AEA is encouraged and supported by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Aviation Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). On October 27, 2015, the FAA addressed a letter to Andrew Perry, the Executive Director of AEA, stating the JAZB is "a very important tool in protecting an airport and its airspace from built objects," and asserts "airports and communities must work together to protect instrument and visual operations," with preventative measures. On August 17, 2015, TxDOT addressed a letter to Andrew Perry stating Height and Hazard Zoning is a "vital tool in protecting our Texas airports and airspace from hazards to air navigation," and encouraged the AEA and governmental entities to "take the necessary actions to ensure the safety of flight."

Staff recommends that Council adopt the resolution co-creating the JAZB with the other entities cited above, and appoint the Assistant Director for the Department of Aviation and the Manager of the Planning & Zoning Department as City representatives on JAZB. Staff also recommends that Council appoint the Assistant Director for the Department of Aviation to the AZBA.